WHIRRAKEE

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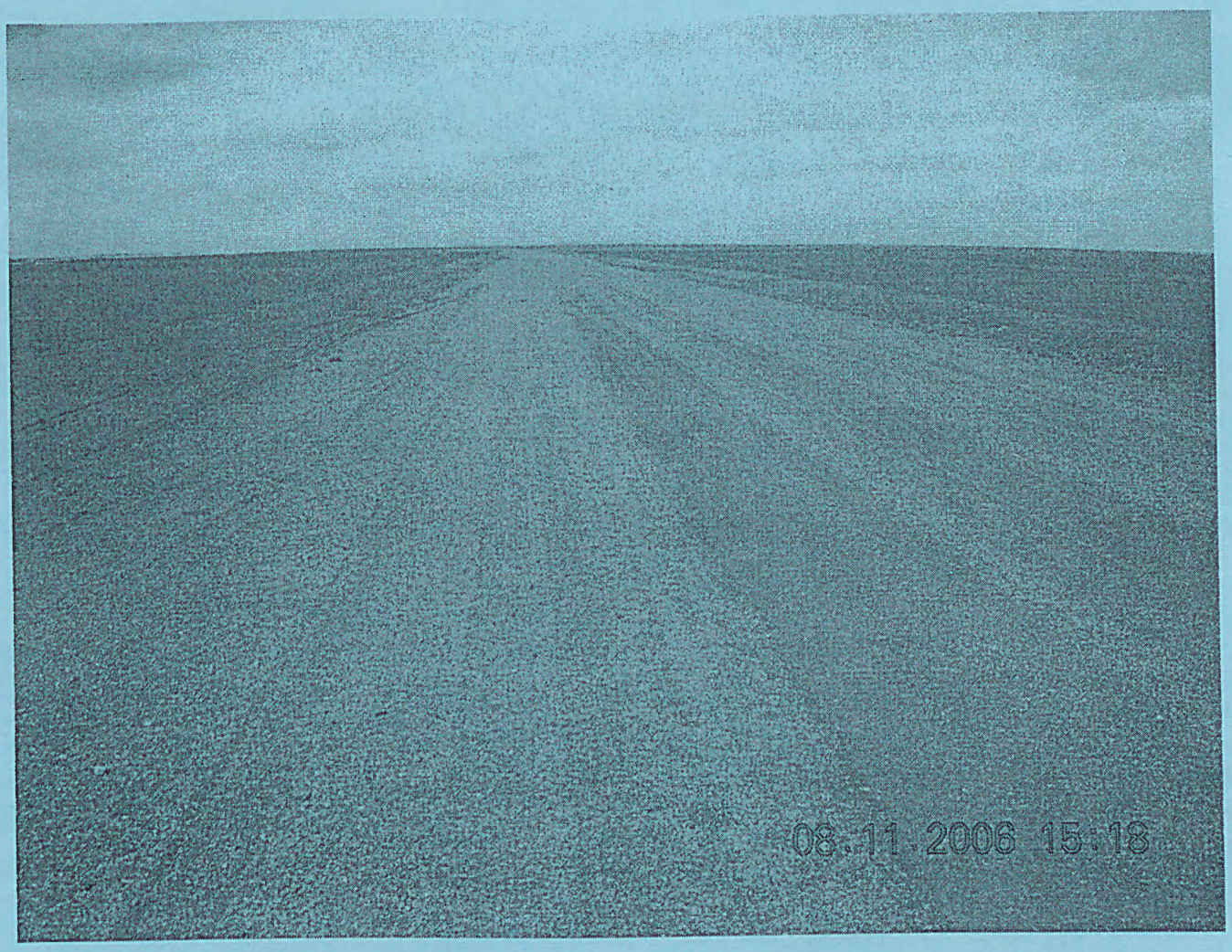

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
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Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Matthew Comer, Bill Holsworth, Darren White, Bob Ruddick, Rod Orr, Jan Orr, Peter Ellis, Ben Goonan, Richard Goonan, Anthony Sheean, Liz Graham

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.
Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see page 2.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 28, No. 4, May 2007

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
Short notices including upcoming excursion		3
Excursion Report for March	Richard Goonan	3
An analysis of rainfall records at Arnold West	Keith Graham	5
April General Meeting 'Thing of the Night' Local autumn and winter flowering orchids	Sabine Wilkens	6
April General Meeting – Roadside Conservation Speaker: Ben Goonan	Sabine Wilkens	7

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note:
I went to Rosalind Park at dusk the other day with some young visitors, after not having been there for a couple of years. I was absolutely delighted that the possums were still there, and at the experience the children were having with them. We are very lucky to have a park, where visitors, local and overseas alike, can observe these beautiful animals at close range. They are actually very tame and thus very vulnerable, but the fact that they are still around, in the face of all attempts to curb their numbers and the enormous people traffic in the park by night and day, is amazing. I am not sure how big a problem the park management perceive possums to be at the moment, let's hope that they and the possums have been able to come to some agreement... If you have not been there for a while, I can thoroughly recommend it.

Front Page Illustration – Photographer: Laurie Sanchez
The topic of the April General Meeting was 'Roadside Conservation'. This photo was taken between Coober Pedy and Oodnadatta. It is quite possible that in November, when it was taken, this roadside is always bare of vegetation. Does anybody know this area well enough to say that this is a 'normal' or a 'degraded' roadside?
Luckily around Bendigo, it is not so difficult to tell (see article on page 7).

Short notices

May 19th Excursion – Wellsford Forest

Please note, this will be **one week later than usual**. Meet at the club rooms for an 8:00am start (car pool – no cost). We will head out to the forest to survey for Swift Parrots, visiting sites used last year and incorporating a more thorough cross section of the whole forest - if you haven't explored the Wellsford much before, this will be a great opportunity to experience the range of the forest's varied environments. Come for the morning or join us after lunch. Phone at 12:00 pm and arrange to meet us somewhere if you know your way around. If you are heading out somewhere else on the day or over the survey period, please contact Garry Cheers (5461 2970) so he can coordinate volunteer efforts across the region.

Ring Richard Goonan on 0423418815 or e-mail him on richardgoonan@optusnet.com.au for further details.

Beetle breathing

By Sabine Wilkens

Do you know how insects breathe? I always believed they had a network of tubes through which air simply diffused in and out of their bodies. The tubes end in small openings in the exoskeleton, called spiracles.
Now it seems that the process of breathing is not so passive after all. Recently, LaTrobe University hosted a seminar on the uses of the new synchrotron, which is about to be opened in Melbourne. One amazing application is a closer look at the inside of insects while they are alive (not sure how long they would remain alive though). The seminar speaker mentioned the very short film clip of a beetle breathing, produced in a synchrotron. This was published some years ago, but I had not seen it. Look at the website below
http://www.sciencemag.org/feature/data/bioimaging/bug.html
And click on the link movie.

Overdue Library Books

At the last general meeting, Diana Collier thanked members for returning overdue books, but also mentioned that some are still outstanding. If you have one of those books, please return it.

Cyperus Species Wanted.

by Richard Goonan

If anyone is familiar with the Flat Sedges (*Cyperus* species), I would be grateful if you could bring a piece to the meeting or otherwise let me know where it is growing, and I can collect some at another time. Flat Drain Sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*), the most common weedy species, is found in damp soils and watercourses, particularly areas with high nutrients, however there are several other weed species and a couple of native species which may occur throughout the region. Despite the dry conditions I have located several species over the past months.

March Excursion Report - Sewerage Farm and Whipstick

by Richard Goonan

Thankyou to Jane Cleary for organising access to the sewerage treatment ponds at Epsom; considering the process involved, it was pleasing to see a good turnout for the autumn survey, and a variety of members participating.

The early morning was reasonably pleasant with a cool light south-westerly breeze and clear skies. The impact of recent low rainfall was immediately evident at the first area we walked to. The shallow waterhole 100m north-west of the main gate, on the left along Wallenjoe Rd, has now receded to one small pool. Usually a good area for Black-tailed Native Hens, none were recorded. A small

number of Purple Swamp Hen and Dusky Moorhen were seen, along with several Black Duck. Other species seen include Grey Teal, Noisy Miner, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Magpie, Red-rumped Parrott, Whistling Kite and Starlings.

The main ponds were also much lower than usual. Several areas of exposed rock were a popular resting site for Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Masked Lapwings (80+) and the occasional Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterel. On the water, Black Duck and Teal were most active with Little Grebes also numerous. Several pairs of Shoveler were also seen, one male demonstrating a breeding display, which involved a noticeable bobbing of the head with a slight forward rotation approximately 8-10 times, before approaching the female.

Although Teal seemed abundant, the total number of species was lower than usual and the majority of birds present were restricted to three species. Swans, Cormorants, Coots and several ducks (Musk Duck, Blue Billed, Pink-eared and Wood Duck) usually present or common at the ponds were absent or in very low numbers, including the Black-winged Stilts usually seen in the far pond near the Hide.

A raptor grounded on the end of an island sparked much debate about its identification, and was decided to be a juvenile Swamp Harrier. As we slowly made our way around to the back ponds Red-browed Firetails were observed feeding on the seed of a weedy *Carex* sp growing along the high water mark. At one point, four Whistling Kite lazily circled over the ponds and trees in the distance.

Other species seen at the ponds include Sacred Ibis, Yellow Billed Spoonbill, White Faced Heron, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Black Shouldered Kite, Rainbow Birds (heard), White Winged Chough, Grey Butcher Bird, Eastern Rosella, Grey Thrush, Welcome Swallow, White-plumed Honeyeater and Willie Wagtail. Four foxes were seen at various points.

Following the sewerage farm, the group headed out to the Whipstick and conducted the first of several ongoing surveys in areas designated in the Bendigo Fire Operations Plan 2006-2009.
Available for public access on the web at http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/index.htm, search for interactive maps on the Department of Sustainability and Environment web site, and follow the links to Fireplan. The Fireplan interactive map site provides several layers including the various zones that have been applied to areas of native vegetation around Bendigo, proposed burns, previous burns, and other fires (wildfires) that have occurred around Bendigo. Without detailed background research being undertaken, the effects of fire in such areas will not be determined. The assumption that species recover and return to previous abundance or something equivalent, providing habitat and replenishing species diversity, may not be appropriate.

Despite the dry conditions a surprising array of species were recorded across the site.
Overall, the understorey was sparse with small areas of *Melaleuca decussata* and *Acacia williamsonii* providing habitat for Babblers (White-browed, several nests found), and other small birds. The total area of this vegetation was restricted to small sections of the site and was not particularly dense. Low, open understorey dominated by *Westringia* was present across the higher areas of the site providing a more diverse vegetation component. A network of kangaroo and wallaby tracks through this area has created a highly dissected understorey and organic litter layer. Well developed lichen growing amongst the small patches between the tracks is vulnerable to disturbance.

Due to the time of day, wind and lack of flowering species, the bird survey was limited. Although large numbers of individual species were not recorded, a good range of forest birds were noted, including Grey Fantail, White-eared Honeyeater, Brown- headed Honeyeater, Wattle Bird, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Little Thornbill, Varied Sittella, Spotted Pardalote, Rufous Whistler, Red-capped Robin, Grey

Currawong, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Weebill, Blue Wren, and White-throated Needletail flying overhead.

If anyone is interested in visiting any of the proposed sites and assisting with surveys please contact me (Richard) to organise a time, any assistance would be appreciated.

An analysis of rainfall records at Arnold West

Author: Keith Graham

First, may I make it quite clear that this is not an attempt to deny global warming as the evidence is now quite clear.

Over the last year or two, with our reservoirs reaching record lows, there have been many wild and unsubstantiated claims about the reasons. One myth is that this is, in fact, a "Hundred Year Drought' so I have compiled a few statistics that may be of some interest.
Our family have been farming since 1860 but the rainfall recordings only go back to 1880.

The highest decade average recorded was from 1886 to 1895 (511 mm; 20.16 inches). This was followed by 5 years of sharp decline culminating in what was historically known as the 'Federation Drought' when half the sheep in NSW and one third of the cattle in Queensland perished, which had terrible repercussions in the towns and cities across Eastern Australia.

Rainfall began an uneven but steady decline for the next 50 years reaching its nadir in the 1936-45 decade (average 305 mm; 12.20 inches) when there were 4 droughts in 7 years - 1938; 1940; 1943; 1944 (from 1900 to 1949 the yearly average was 380 mm; 15.22 inches).

1950 saw the rainfall patterns change, with flooding the headline news, peaking in a massive flood in the Murray-Darling system in 1956. It was then that Wentworth (NSW) was saved by a levee bank built by community action - there is a monument there to the tiny Ferguson Tractors that were the main weapons in the town's defence.

In 1973-74, Lake Eyre reached record levels and Bendigo in 1973 received a record 1000 mm; 40 inches (yearly average from 1950 to 1999 was 453 mm; 16.67 inches).

My records show the latest decade from 1996 to 2005 had a yearly average of 432 mm; 17.29 inches - just above the 120 year average of 417 mm; 16.67 inches - rebutting the claim that this present dry spell has been an exceptional event.

The last 50 years have created two generations who have never experienced the water shortages and regular dust storms of the 1940's, of which I still have vivid memories. At this time, some district farmers had to drive horses, cattle and sheep into the Western District and as far as Gippsland to ensure their survival.

I am sure that there are many lessons to be learned from this current setback and hopefully they will not be forgotten when our reserves are full again.

Some calculations follow (for your information):
10-year averages (1886-2005)
1886-1895 511 mm (10.54 inches)
1896-1905 378 mm (15.13 inches)
1906-1915 391 mm (15.64 inches)
1916-1925 448 mm (17.91 inches)
1926-1935 378 mm (15.10 inches)
1936-1945 305 mm (12.18 inches)
1946-1955 455 mm (18.19 inches)
1956-1965 435 mm (17.41 inches)
1966-1975 478 mm (19.10 inches)
1976 1985 397 mm (15.87 inches)
1985-1995 544 mm (18.16 inches)
1996-2005 432 mm (17.29 inches)

Annual rainfall below 275 mm (11 inches)
From 1900 to 1949, 14 years had rainfall below 275 mm.
From 1950 to 1999, 4 years had rainfall below 275 mm.

Annual averages
For the period 1900 to 1949, the average annual rainfall was 380 mm (15.22 inches).
Between 1950 and 1999, the average annual rainfall was 453 mm (18.12 inches).
From 1886 to 2005, the average annual rainfall was 417 mm (16.67 inches).

'Thing of the Night' – Local Autumn and Winter Orchids

by Sabine Wilkens

Rod Orr delivered this segment at the April General Meeting. He was preparing us for what we might see in the upcoming months of late autumn and winter
The appearance of our ground orchids, however, depends on summer/autumn/winter rain preceding their flowering, so unless we get some of that, many species will remain invisible this year.

But if we are lucky, we'll see from **April** on, and right through till winter, the Tiny Greenhood, *Pterostylis parviflora* with its interesting flower, or Parsons Bands, *Eriochilus cucullatus* with its characteristic woolly lip. With this species, you do not see a leaf, unless the plant is NOT going to produce a flower in that same year. If the leaf is there, it grows flat on the ground.
Both of these species are tiny (up to 10cm tall) and often overlooked, but both can be found on One Tree Hill.

From **May** onwards, we could find the larger Autumn Greenhood, *Pterostylis revoluta.* At 15-20cm, it is one of the tallest greenhoods. Another 'tall one' is the Autumn Midge Orchid, *Genoplesium* aff *rufum*, whose flowers burst through the stem-clasping leaf.

In **June**, you might see the Small Striped Greenhood, *Pterostylis alata*, also tiny at 10cm tall, with a strikingly beautiful flower. It has known populations on Mt Kooyoora but can also be seen at One Tree Hill.

Pterosylis alata, image from:
http://www.orchidspecies.com/pteralata.htm

In **July**, look for the Slaty Helmet Orchid, *Corybas incurvus.* This is a weird-looking plant. If you think of the standard anatomy of a simple flower, you can hardly get a more modified structure than the flower of this species. The round leaf is flat on the ground.

The leaf of the Mosquito Orchid, *Acianthus pusillus*, is also flat to the ground, but it differs from the former in its purple colour on the underside. It has been seen in **August** at Kamarooka beneath mallee trees, but has not flowered for some time.

Acianthus pusillus, image from:
http://www.orchidspecies.com/acianpusilus.htm

The Tall Greenhood, *Pterostylis longifolia* and the Large Striped Greenhood, *P. robusta*, also flower this month. Rod said 'on the spring side of winter', a nice expression…

Thank you Rod for reminding us what to expect, and the beautiful slides. People like Rod have no trouble spotting these tiny plants, but I can never see them. For those like me, my recommendation is to take children along when looking for these orchids and offering a prize for the first one spotted. May be their eyes are closer to the ground….but whatever the reason, they are often successful, where I fail.

April General Meeting
Speaker Ben Goonan – 'Roadside Conservation History and Issues'

By Sabine Wilkens

Ben Goonan works for the North Central Catchment Management Authority, on a project dedicated to roadside conservation. He began his talk with a run-down on the (rather short) history of roadside conservation in Victoria.

In Australia, the conservation value of roadside vegetation has been recognised for the last 30 years, but it was not until 1990s that Victoria established the Victorian Roadside Conservation Advisory Council. It operated until 2001 or 2002 and has now been dissolved, but it got the ball rolling by providing the first management guidelines for roadside conservation. After this, roadside management, which had been a shire issue until then, became part of the Regional Catchment Strategy of the NCCMA (2003-2007). The Road Management Act (2004) also clearly identifies who is responsible for this sort of vegetation.

In North Central Victoria, there are 44 500 km of roads, reaching from Woodend to the Murray and west of St Arnaud to east of the Campaspe River. A lot of the Road Management Act is about safety and liability issues, and has little to do with conservation of flora and fauna, however, at least this aspect is recognised there.

Multiple partners are involved in issues of roadside conservation, state government, local government, community groups and private landholders. This complexity, together with the sheer amount of road length and the distances involved, can often lead to difficulties and delays.

So why is it worthwhile to conserve roadsides?

Linear strips of vegetation bordering roads are often some of the best examples of the vegetation communities that have disappeared or have been substantially degraded throughout the rest of the country. The trees on roadsides are often very old, older than seen elsewhere in forests and reserves or private land. Roadsides also contain large numbers of the state's rare or threatened species. There are over 700 records of rare plants in these remnants.

Many roadsides also provide vital links and corridors for the movement of wildlife. In this sense the roadside reserves act like a skeleton for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity across the region. Roadsides are also sometimes the only place where local seed or other raw material can be collected for revegetation projects. A licence is required for any such activities.

Aims of the NCCMA Roadside Conservation Project

- A consistent and reliable assessment of the road network in the catchment
- GIS mapping of roadside conservation data
- development of roadside management plans
- conduct education and awareness training about roadside conservation through local councils
- production of information material to raise awareness through the media
- to make the information 'spatial'.

The Roadside Assessment Process

At the moment, the project is half-way through assessing the roadsides of shires in the North Central region. Some spin-offs in this period have been a number of signs, alerting people to 'significant native vegetation'. Unfortunately, the benefits of such attractive signs, or to alerting the public to anything special like this, as most field nats will have experienced first hand at some stage, is questionable. The signs get shot at, go missing, get run over or cause somebody to bulldoze the entire roadside reserve, once being made aware of its special nature. The sign states 'no unauthorised grazing, slashing, soil disturbance or spraying. Please contact xyz if you want to undertake any work here'. This must worry some people who want to continue certain practices on these narrow strips of vegetation, like grazing stock, slashing and burning to protect adjacent crops. Other people, and I still imagine this is the majority, are thankful for having the special nature of a place pointed out to them. It is difficult to know how to proceed here as the signs are expensive.

The roadside assessment is a highly organised affair. Information is collated on sections of roadside which includes canopy continuity, habitat value, regeneration (presence/absence thereof), adjoining vegetation, occurrence of Victorian Rare or Threatened Species (VROT), weed cover and soil disturbance. This information is used to decide if the roadside is of high, medium or low condition.

A 'section' is identified as a piece of roadside with more or less uniform characteristics of those in the list above. Once one or several parameters change, a new section begins. The 2500km of roads in the Bendigo Shire, have now been turned into 5500 sections.

Other information is also collected, but not directly used in the scoring of a roadside section. This is the width of the roadside, the degree of canopy overhang, points of interest (e.g. one single old tree), photos, often from fixed photo points, cultural values, potential for wildlife corridors and threats.

Threats to a site can include timber removal, livestock, gardening refuse and other rubbish dumping, herbicide applications, rabbits, salinity and removal of soil, seed or gravel.

In the end, a roadside conservation value is assigned for each section in the context of the surrounding vegetation and not in isolation. Thus the conditions of two roadsides might be very similar, but if one occurs amongst cleared paddocks, with not a tree in sight, it will score higher than the same roadside amongst pristine bushland. The assessment is thus skewed towards areas where there is no native vegetation left.

Community Education

A poster has been developed so far which has gone out to schools. Also training days are planned in which people who drive on roadsides (e.g. farmers, council workers) as well as Landcare people and shire engineers are made aware of the special nature of roadsides.

Other areas where the community may get involved in are

- providing buffers for roadsides
- picking up rubbish
- seed collection and planting of threatened species
- monitoring of roadside species
- observation for wildlife movement
- controlling weeds
- identifying spots which contain threatened species

The rest of Ben's talk was a series of slides, showing us the rare finds, and often beautiful plants he comes across during his work. These are listed below. Ben would like information on the whereabouts of these species if anybody comes across them on roadsides in the region:

Juncus psammophilus, Sand Rush. This has been spotted along creek lines near Huntly.

Ptilotus erubenscens (Hairy Tail), seen near Newbridge.

Pimelea spinescens subsp. *spinescens*, Spiny Rice Flower, the only rice flower that flowers over winter.
Austrostipa breviglumis, Cane Spear Grass

Dianella sp. aff. *longifolia* (the genus *Dianella* is under revision at the moment)

Dianella tarda, Late Flower Flax Lily. The name comes from the fact that this species only opens its flowers after 2 or 3pm.

Myoporum montanum, Waterbush

Swainsona sericea, Silky Swainson Pea

Swainsona plagiotropis, Red Swainson Pea

Swainsona swainsonioides, Downy Swainson Pea. These can sometimes come up in unexpected places. Some emerged at the bottom of Lake Cooper, after it dried up.

Interestingly, many of these delicate plants are actually growing in old grader tracks on the roadside . If the grader has not dug too deep, the long tap root will survive. It seems that they need a physical disturbance.

Acacia oswaldii, Umbrella Wattle. Ben showed us an old specimen, the only one on a long stretch of roadside. Such a plant would form a 'point of interest' on the assessment sheet, rather than make up a whole section.

Acacia pendula, Weeping Myall. There are only a handful of these left on the Northern Plains now.

Acacia loderii, Nealie/Myall

Arthropodium sp 3, Chocolate Lily

Maireana aphylla, Leafless Bluebush. These often grow in the fenceline, so when the fence is renewed, the plant will be destroyed.

Muehlenbaeckia horrida subsp. *horrida*, Spiny Lignum

Stemodia glabella, Smooth Blue-rod. This species has been recorded in Victoria less than five times. It grows in wet conditions, so might not grow anywhere at the moment.
Cullen parvum, Small Scurf Pea

Dodonaea procumbens, Trailing Hop Bush

Marsilea hirsuta, Short Fruit Nardoo. This is actually a fern. They look more like a flowering plant though with their helicopter like leaves (fronds).

Sclerolaena burchii. Ga,vanished Burr. The status of some of the very rare plants is uncertain. This species has ony been recorded a few times...it could actually be a ring-in.

Senecio behrianus, Stiff Groundsel. Until recently, only one population was known of this species near Corop with another isolated occurrence near Ballarat. Ben has actually found another population near Gunbower forest, more than 100 km from the Corop site.

Not many people stop at roadsides, so many of these special plants are never seen. Ben's message at the end of the talk was to take time to examine roadsides closely, and we'll be amazed at what we'll find.

Ben is a long-standing member of the BFNC. It is great to see that he is involved in this important project.
Thanks for a wonderful presentation.

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, May 9 **7.30pm**
Speaker to be advised.

Excursion
The next excursion will be on Saturday, May 19, to the Wellsford Forest for Swift Parrot surveys and a look at local fauna habitat. The Wellsford forest is an extensive area of Box-Ironbark forest that has many significant values.
See page 3 of this edition for details.
Conact Richard Goonan if you plan to attend (0423418815). The entire 2007 excursion plan can be found in the March *Whirrakee*.

Please note: This excursion is running a week later than usual.

Fauna Group
This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Wednesday, May 23 **7.30pm**
Topic of the night to be avised.

Fauna Excursions
Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.
W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

New Edition of Box Ironbark CD The new edition of 'Plants and Animals of the Box-Ironbark Area of Central Victoria' is still available at the usual price of $ 50
....and **Wildlife of the Box Ironbark Country by Chris Tzaros** is also still available at $ 30.-.

Please contact Bill Holsworth if you are interested in purchasing one of these.

Bendigo Field Naturalists on the web
Any comments about the site are most welcome
http://communitysites.impulse.net.au/bendigofieldnaturalists/fnats.html

An interesting seminar series
The Centre of Environmental Management (University of Ballarat, Mt Helen Campus) in conjunction with DSE present a varied and interesting seminar program. Details will be supplied as they come to hand. Some topics are TBA (to be advised) but some people may know the speaker and what their topic will be already. The contact person is S.K. Florentine and he can be reached at s.florentine@ballarat.edu.au or by Phone on 5327 9231.

11 May, speaker: Fleur Maidment
Topic: TBA
20 July, speaker: Professor Rod Keenan
Topic: Quantifying forest ecosystem services: policy issues and methodological challenges
24 August, speaker: Dr David Cameron
Topic: The conservation status of Victorian Flora: the recent IUCN based review and case studies